

Message Text

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46

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R 171515Z SEPT 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1635

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKEND PRESS

1. FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST CONTAINED IN THESSALONIKI WEEKEND PRESS:

2. FORMATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL COURT SEPTEMBER 14 COVERED FULLY WITH FAVORABLE REACTION IN ALL PAPERS. CHIEF EDITOR ELIAS KYROU OF CONSERVATIVE "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" PRAISES ABSENCE OF MILITARY OFFICERS FROM NEW COURT IN EDITORIAL OF SEPT. 16. KYROU ADDS THAT, EVEN IF APPOINTED TO COURT, MAKAREZOS, AS MILITARY OFFICER AND ECONOMIST, COULD NOT HAVE ACCEPTED POST. "MAKEDONIA" LABELS COURT AS "FIRST IMPLEMENTATION OF TIMETABLE FOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS", INCLUDING LAW 800 ON POLITICAL PARTIES.

3. IN CONTINUING SPECULATION ON FORMATION OF MARKEZINIS CABINET, "THESSALONIKI" REPORT OF SEPT 17 FROM SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS CLAIMS THAT KARAMANLIS HAS NOT AGREED TO MEETING IN PARIS WITH MARKEZINIS IN ORDER NOT TO CONFER "PRESTIGE AND POLITICAL BENEFIT" UNTIL LATTER'S REAL INTERESTS CLARIFIED. REPORT ALSO DESCRIBES CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

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AS "STALEMATE" WHICH LIKELY TO CONTINUE UNTIL OFFICIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT ON FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

4. ALL PAPERS OF SEPT 16 FRONTPAGE ANNOUNCEMENT
PREVIOUS DAY OF LEGISLATIVE DECREE ON LIFE PENSIONS
FOR RETIRED CABINET MINISTERS, PARTY LEADERS, AND
DEPUTIES. BOTH "VORRAS" AND "MAKEDONIA" LABEL MEASURE
"GENEROUS" AND "INNOVATIVE".

5. SEPT 16 PRESS ALSO GIVES PROMINENT COVERAGE TO
KISSINGER HEARINGS, PARTICULARLY PORTION ON GREECE.
BANNER "MAKEDONIA" HEADLINE REPORTS THAT "WASHINGTON
MADE PROPOSALS THROUGH MR. TASCA PRIOR TO HOLDING OF
REFERENDUM". ARTICLE REPRINTS PARTIAL TEXT OF EXCHANGES
ON GREECE BETWEEN DR. KISSINGER AND SENATOR PELL.

6. LEAD EDITORIAL BY ELIAS KYROU IN "VORRAS" OF
SEPT 16 CRITICIZES GOVT FOR LACK OF PROGRESS IN DEALING
WITH NATIONAL PROBLEMS. KYROU PARTICULARLY SINGLES
OUT MACEDONIAN ISSUE AND URGES ATTENTION BY GREEK GOVT PRIOR
TO DEATH OF PRES. TITO. EDITORIAL CITES ALLEGED RECENT YUGOSLAV-
BULGARIAN CONTACTS AS REASON FOR GREEK CONCERN. KYROU CONCLUDES
THAT "INCOMPETENT PERSONNEL", "IGNORANCE IN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS",
AND "OVERLY AMBITIOUS GOVT PROGRAMS" HAVE RESULTED IN
WASTED FUNDS. IN LIGHT OF THESE MISTAKES, PRES. PAPADOPOULOS
HAS "MADE GOOD CHOICE" IN MARKEZINIS AND COMBINATION OF
TWO LIKELY TO SURMOUNT OBSTACLES. COMMENT: WHILE KYROU
HAS BEEN FREQUENT WRITER ON MACEDONIAN ISSUE, ABOVE
IS LATEST IN SERIES OF CRITICAL EDITORIALS QUESTIONING
COMPETENCE OF GOVT.
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